Before the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance

In the matter of:

File Number 2003-118980

Michael G. Jones 201 Lakeshore Drive Timmonsville, South Carolina 29161 Default Order Revoking Resident Insurance Agent's License

This matter comes before me pursuant to a Letter of Allegation and Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing served, as required within S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-170 (Supp. 2002), by the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance upon Michael G. Jones, a licensed South Carolina resident insurance agent, by both certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail on September 2, 2003.

That letter informed Michael G. Jones of his right to request a public hearing upon the allegations of impropriety contained within the letter against him. The letter further warned that his failure to make a timely, written request would result in my summary revocation of his license to do business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina. Despite that warning, Mr. Jones has failed to respond to the Department's letter. Mr. Owens also failed to provide the Department with a current telephone number in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 38-43-107 (1989), and the United States Postal Service returned our subsequent letters as 'undeliverable.' On October 6, 2003, therefore, counsel for the Department filed an Affidavit of Default, and submitted the entire matter directly to me for my summary decision based solely on the record.

The letter alleged, and I now find as fact, that while licensed to do business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina for Monumental Life Insurance Company, Michael G. Jones failed to forward to said Insurer an approximate amount of \$2,334.81 in concept of premiums he had received from various consumers. These acts, as alleged, are a direct violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 38-43-130 (Supp. 2002). That Code section provides that "the Director or his designee may revoke or suspend an agent's license after ten day's notice...when it appears that an agent...has willfully deceived or dealt unjustly with the citizens of this State." This Code section goes on in Subsection (3) to describe "deceived or dealt unjustly with the citizens of this state" specifically to include, "improperly withholding, misappropriating, or converting any monies or properties received in the course of doing insurance business."

In accordance with my findings of fact, and considering Michael G. Jones' complete refusal to avail himself of his opportunity to be heard, I now conclude, as a matter of law, that he willfully deceived and dealt unjustly with the citizens of South Carolina, thereby violating S.C. Code Ann. § 38-43-130(3) (Supp. 2002), and that his license should be revoked.

This administrative disciplinary order is a public record subject to the disclosure requirements of the State of South Carolina's *Freedom of Information Act*, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10, *et seq.* (1991 and Supp. 2002). Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit or to deprive any person of any private right of action under the law. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit, in any manner, the criminal jurisdiction of any law enforcement or judicial officer. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit the statutory duty of the Director of Insurance, exercised either directly or through the Department of Insurance, to "report to the Attorney General or other appropriate law enforcement officials criminal violations of the law relative to the business of insurance or the provisions of this title which he considers necessary to report." S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-110 (4) (Supp. 2002).

It is therefore ordered that Michael G. Jones' license to transact business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina be, and is hereby, revoked, and that no license, issued through the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance is to be issued to him.

It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be transmitted to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for distribution to its current member states and to each insurer for which Mr. Jones is currently licensed, through the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance, as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina.

This order becomes effective as of the date of my signature below.

Ernst N. Csiszar Director

October , 2003, at Columbia, South Carolina

Before the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance

In the matter of:

SCDOI File Number 2003-118980

Michael G. Jones, 201 Lakeshore Drive Timmonsville, South Carolina 29161.

Affidavit of Default

Personally appeared before me T. Douglas Concannon, who, being duly sworn, stated that at all times relevant to this Affidavit of Default he was an attorney representing the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance in this administrative action. He further stated the following:

The Department served notice on Michael G. Jones at the address detailed above by a Letter of Allegation and Notice of Opportunity for a Public Hearing that the Department would request the Director of Insurance to summarily revoke his license to act as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina in thirty days. The Department served the Notice, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-170 (Supp. 2002), by "depositing it in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the last known address of the person and registered with the return receipt requested." That Notice further informed Mr. Jones of his opportunity, within thirty days, to request in writing a public hearing.

The United States Postal Service effected service of the Notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail, on or about September 2, 2003. Michael G. Jones has made no request for a public hearing or any other response to the Notice. The time in which to do so has expired. He is now in default.

> T. Douglas Concannon Associate General Counsel

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of October, 2003

Steven R. DuBois

Notary Public for the State of South Carolina My Commission Expires May 10, 2009

South Carolina Department of Insurance

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